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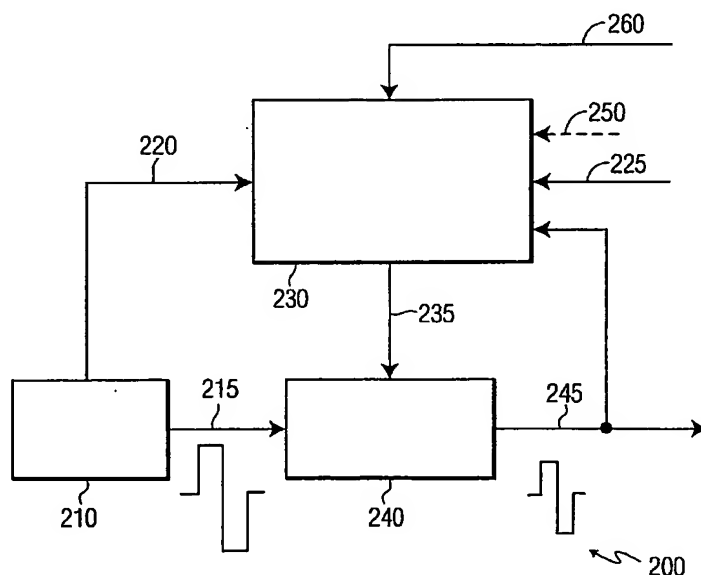
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **CONSTANT SOUND LEVEL**



(57) Abstract: A receiver or playback device (100) with an audio output includes an automatic volume control system (200) which has a controller (230) configured to output a control signal (235) to change levels of an input signal; and an adjustor (240) which changes levels of the input signal to form an adjusted signal (245) in response to the control signal (235). The controller (230) forms the control signal (235) in response to input signal, the adjusted signal and a reference signal (225). The adjustor (240) lowers the input signal and/or limits its high levels to form the adjusted signal when levels of the input signal and/or the adjusted signal exceed the reference signal (225). Additionally, the adjustor (240) increases the input signal and/or increases its low levels when levels of the input signal and/or the adjusted signal are below another reference signal (260).

WO 2005/055420 A1



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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

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